



## **IRISH LIFE INVESTMENT MANAGERS (ILIM)**

### ***The week that was – WEEK 31 (ending 31/07/2015)***

**“Never confuse a single defeat with a final defeat.” - F. Scott Fitzgerald**

**Ireland fastest growing economy in Europe** – Ireland's economy grew by 1.4% in Quarter 1 and expanded by more than previously thought in 2014, according to the latest Central Statistics Office figures. GDP was 5.2% last year (compared to previous estimate of 4.8%), making us the fastest growing economy in EU.

**Irish retail sales up 5.4% year-on-year** – Excluding motor trades, retail sales volumes rose 0.4% in June, up 5.8% on the year and 5.4% including motor sales. The recovery in retail sales has been broadly based, with figures showing Irish households are now more likely to spend on big-ticket items such as cars and furniture.

**Greece's ruling party to meet in Sept. to discuss bailout** – Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' Syriza party has opted to hold an emergency meeting in September. Delaying the meeting is good news for the bailout package negotiated with international creditors as an immediate meeting might have derailed the deal.

**U.S. consumer confidence weakens** – Two separate measures of consumer optimism in the U.S., the University of Michigan Sentiment Index and the Consumer Confidence Index, posted declines in July. While they remain at healthy levels overall, confidence appears to have been impacted by Greece and China.

**U.K. economic growth picks up to 0.7% in second quarter** – The UK's economy grew by an estimated 0.7% in the April to June period according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), compared to growth of 0.4% in the first quarter. The economy has now seen 10 quarters of sustained economic growth.

**China's stock market continues major slide** - China's Shanghai Composite plunged 8.5% on Monday and 1.7% on Tuesday but made a comeback on Wednesday, rising 3.5%. It then fell 2.2% on Thursday and 1.1% on Friday. These falls continue the recent large slide despite the major government intervention seen in crisis.

**The Story of the week:** Ben Wilson from the U.S. recently dropped his iPhone from all of 9,300ft out of a plane. However, he not only found the device, but found it in working condition. A friend of Mr Wilson used the Find My iPhone app to track it down, some 70 miles away in Joplin, Texas, a bit scratched but still operating perfectly.

#### **DISCLOSURE:-**

Irish Life Investment Managers Limited is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. While Irish Life Investment Managers uses reasonable efforts to ensure that the information contained in this document is current, accurate and complete at the date of publication, no representations or warranties are made (express or implied) as to the reliability, accuracy or completeness of such information. Irish Life Investment Managers therefore cannot be held liable for any loss arising directly or indirectly from the use of, or any action taken in reliance on, any information contained in this document. This material is for information only and does not constitute an offer or recommendation to buy or sell any investment, or subscribe to any investment management or advisory service. The performance shown represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Past performance is not indicative of future results.



## Index Performances and Market Data\*

<b>Equity Markets (%)</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015 YTD (to 31/07)</b>
ISEQ	-3.0	0.6	14.7	35.8	16.8	27.1
FTSE 100	9.0	-5.6	6.0	18.7	0.7	4.2
Euro Stoxx 50	-0.1	-17.7	13.4	21.5	4.0	16.7
S&P 500	12.8	0.0	12.4	32.4	13.7	3.4
Nasdaq	16.9	-1.8	14.1	36.9	14.8	8.3
Nikkei	-3.0	-17.3	16.24	59.4	7.1	18.0
MSCI Emerging Markets	16.4	-20.4	13.8	-2.3	5.6	-0.6
MSCI World	17.2	-7.62	12.1	26.3	10.4	5.5
<b>Sovereign 10yr Bond Yields (%)</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015 YTD</b>
US	3.3	1.9	1.7	3.0	2.2	2.2
German	3.0	1.8	1.4	1.9	0.5	0.6
UK	3.4	2.0	1.9	3.0	1.9	1.9
Japan	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.4
Ireland	9.1	8.4	4.5	3.4	1.3	1.2
Italy	4.8	7.1	4.6	4.1	2.1	1.8
Greece	12.5	31.7	12.7	8.2	9.6	11.5
Portugal	6.6	13.4	6.9	6.1	2.7	2.4
Spain	5.5	5.1	5.4	4.1	1.6	1.9
<b>Central Bank Rates (%)</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015 YTD</b>
ECB	1	1	0.75	0.25	0.05	0.05
Bank of England	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.25	0.50	0.50
US Federal Reserve	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
<b>Foreign Exchange Rates</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015 YTD</b>
Euro/Dollar (€/\$)	1.34	1.30	1.31	1.37	1.21	1.10
Euro/Sterling (€/£)	0.86	0.83	0.81	0.83	0.78	0.70
Sterling/Dollar (£/\$)	1.56	1.55	1.61	1.65	1.56	1.56
<b>IPD All Property Return (%)</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015 YTD</b>
Ireland	-2.4	-2.4	3.1	12.7	40.1	4.3 (Q 1)
UK	14.5	8.1	2.7	10.7	17.8	2.9 (Q 1)
US	14.8	14.5	5.3	11.4	11.2	3.1 (Q 1)

\*Past performance is not a reliable guide to future performance